

Message Text

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47

ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 HEW-02 IO-10 AID-05

/029 W

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R 121248Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4129

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, TH, LA

SUBJ: MEO REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: STATE 260114

1. CONDITIONS IN GENERAL OF MEO REFUGEES BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF CAMPS HAS IMPROVED STEADILY OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS. RECENT VISITS TO CAMP AREAS AT NONG KHAI AND NAM PONG BY EMBASSY OFFICERS ACCOMPANIED BY JAMES WILSON, JR. AND TO CHIANG RAI/ NAN DISTRICTS BY BOTH UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES AND CHIANG MAI CONSULAR OFFICERS INDICATE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD STAPLES (RICE, SALT, WATER) AS WELL AS MEDICINE, BLANKETS, POTS AND PANS, ETC. IS NOW ORGANIZED AND THAT ASSISTANCE IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN MANNER COMMENSURATE WITH LIVING CONDITIONS OF INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS IN THE AREAS.

2. ONLY PLACE WHERE MEO REFUGEES ARE LIVING OUTSIDE OF CAMPS, YET WITHIN ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IS IN NAN PROVINCE NEAR PUA AND SOP TUAN CAMPS AND WITHIN A THIRTY MINUTE WALK (ACCORDING TO UNHCR REP. MOUCHET, WHO IS BASED IN NAN) TO FOOD DISTRIBUTION POINTS. THEY APPEAR TO BE IN SOMEWHAT BETTER POSITION TO FARE FOR THEMSELVES BY HUNTING, FISHING, GARDENING, ETC., THAN DO THOSE WHO ARE ENCAMPED AND WHERE EGRESS TO OUTSIDE IS RESTRICTED.

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3. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON OTHER MEO WHO MAY BE

LOCATED IN MORE REMOTE AREAS, WE ASSUME THEIR EXISTENCE MUST
BE VERY MEAGER. WILL REPORT FURTHER AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
BECOMES AVAILABLE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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